Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program needs more volunteers For those of you who gram like this work is to tax program is virtually as State of New Mexico work but more volunteers

For those of you who have been with the Air Force during tax season. whether here at Kirtland AFB or almost any other hase worldwide, you know that one of the benefite to being attached to the military this time of year is being able to have your income tax returns prepared free of charge. Not only do the tax returns get pre pared, they also get filed electronically, so you can have your refund in about

two weeks or less.

The only practical way
to make a large-scale pro-

gram like this work is to enlist the aid of volunteers through an Interal Revenue Service-sponsored program like the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program.

Through the VITA program, volunteers are trained using IRS-provided instructional materials, and tax returns are prepared and filed electronically using IRS-provided software.

Each year, the key to a successful program is the number of people who volunteer. With sufficient numbers, the Kirtland AFB tax program is virtually assured of success. Without the numbers, however, the opposite is true.

Volunteer preparations for the 2002 tax season have already begun, with the first training class having completed its coursework in early December. Two more training classes are planned for January. No special background is required to sign on as a vol-

unteer.

A class is scheduled to be held Jan. 14-16, covering not only the fundamentals of tax preparation, but also the basics of using the

tax software.

On Jan. 24, a threehour seminar is scheduled to be given covering the various considerations involved in preparing income tax returns for the

Because of base exercises during this week, not all volunteers will be able to attend this particular class. However, those not

affected by the exercises are encouraged to attend. The second class will be held the following week. The IRS tax and software portion will be held Jan. 21-23 and the State of New

Mexico tax seminar is scheduled to be held Jan. 24. An IRS-sponsored online training course will be operational shortly after the first of the year. Once

enrolled (at no cost), trainess will be able to study and progress at their own pace and on their own time. Once trained, volunteers need to commit to a minimum of 40 hours of

work, but more volunteer hours are needed.

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Many of the volunteers
will prepare tax returns at
their own workstations on
base. Others will work at
the main tax center in the
377th Air Base Wing Headquarters, in the south side
of Building 20604, at 2000
Wyoming Boulevard
Southeast at M Avenue.
Finter at the door on the

south end of the building near the legal office. In every case, a preliminary assessment of each client's tax return will be made, so that each volunteer is assigned work that matches his or her training

and experience level. Perhaps the bottom line in a program like this, just like a savings program, is that the greater the investment, the greater the return. The more TEAM KIRTLAND invests in the VITA program, the more specific individuals and the

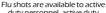
base as a whole will get back out of it. Potential volunteers, including military retirees, are encouraged to contact John Ford at 853-1715 or email him at john, ford-@kirtland.af.mil.

Kirtland Fire Department

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Right: Kirtland Fire Defrom Albuquerque Fire Department, served Christmas dinner to 831 people from a local shelter. Families and individuals were bussed on base to a holiday party at which donated toys and other gifts were distributed and Santa visited chil-





duty personnel, active duty dependents, retirees and dependents and DOD eligible

Flu shots

employees. The flu shots will be administered at the 377th Medical Group Clinic.

